El Caballero

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL | VOLUME 45 | NUMBER 9 | APRIL 3, 1987

Constitution Revised

by Jonathan Bradley

The El Cerrito High School legislature has finished revising the present school Constitution and is proposing the addition of a Bill of Rights if the revision is adopted by the student body.

The revision was done by a committee, David Donovan, Andrew Kaplan, Seymore Liao, and Garret Hayashida. The purpose for the changes was that legislature felt that the old Constitution was outdated and was not being followed. The idea was proposed to encourage and publicize student involvement in the government.

Some changes include the elimination of the boys and girls Commmisioners of Athletics. The offices will be replaced by Directors of Social Affairs. The directors will plan rallies and other school events. A Director of Communications has been created to suprvise announcements over the P.A. system and other group announcements.

The Constitution preamble, oath of office and petition for offices have been taken out of the revised Constitution. The latter two items were removed because they were not being carried out and the legislature felt that it was unnecessary for them to remain.

The new addition to the Constitution will include a year long term for legislature instead of one semester. The supreme court that was established in the old Constitution had not been implemented, but that will be done with the adoption of the revision. The court will consist of four students and three faculty members.

Student representatives will bring the changes to their classes for a vote which will be tallied by April 3rd. If the student body approves the revised Constitution then the Bill of Rights will be added to it. If the revision is not approved the present Constitution will stay in effect.

The Bill of Rights was created because legislature felt that some rights should be protected that are not now present in the Constitution. They felt that students need more input in the creation of the rules and regulations that protect students.

The Bill will outline certain basic rights like feeedom of speech and press and peaceful protest.It will also include things like the right to leave class in case of an emergency.

EC Science Fairs Well

by Jamie Jung

It was not the first time that all 21 El Cerrito High students entering the local science fair, held at Contra Costa College on Saturday, March 7, won top awards, but according to chemistry teacher Bill Tobin, the competition was the fiercest ever. On Saturday, March 28, 11 of the 13 students who went on to the San Francisco Bay Area Science Fair, at the San Francisco Academy of Sciences, also won top honors there.

Tobin felt that "the students did very well at the Local Fair, but even better at the Bay Area Fair." In Behavior Science, Freshman Maura Bulluck won 4th and Marina Tolou-Shams and sophmore Jessica Jacobs were awarded 3rd place. First place prizes went to Freshman Margie Proctor and Junior Celia Chung.

In Biological Science, Freshmen Kendrick Go, Kendric McCabe, and Joel Nagafugi won 4th place. Freshman Thomas Tandoc and Sophmore Laurie Somers were awarded 3rd place. Spohmores Michael Bergman and Kathy Gutman went home with 2nd place and Spohmore Michelle Brand took 1st place.

In Mathematics, Sophmore Sean Bridge won 3rd place. Junior Kevin Gong went away with 1st place. In Physical Science, Spohmore Derric McGothen won 3rd place. In 2nd place was Freshman Crystal Nie and Junior Todd

CONTINUED BACK PAGE

Duckies and Bunnies, not affiliated at all with Vomitorium, plays at Day in the Pit #2.

Juniors Chosen for State

by Jonathan Bradley

Three El Cerrito High School students will be traveling to Sacamento to represent the school at Boys and Girls State in June.

Juniors Dmitri Melhorne and Jonathan Bradley have been selected for Boys State and eleventh grader Liz Palmer was selected for Girls State. The students will be participating in a mock legislature at the capitol in which they will learn the functions of the government.

Participants will be staying at Sacramento State in dorms where they will form their own cities and counties. The counties will belong to districts and they will form a mini state within the dorms where laws and ordinances will be passed. Within the constructed state they will elect representatives for each level of government.

Representatives will range from mayor to the governor of the state. they will participate in a mock Senate and House of Repesentatives. There will be political ralles; Editorials for candidates will be printed in the newspaper that will be published that week. A mock bar exam will be adminstered the first day to qualify studets as lawyers.

The people that were given the flyer were asked to consider certaiin qualities for selecting the candidates. Special leadership qualities formed the criteria for choosing the representative. The fauculty was also looking for students who were involved in student activties and have a good academic background. After consultation with fauculty members, the list was narrowed down to five girls and two boys. The names of the girls were sent to the Auxilary American Legion and the boys were chosen to go Boys State.

The five girls selected were interviewed by a member of the Auxilary and were asked questions about their involvement in the community and other school activities. Liz Palmer was selected by the Auxilary because they felt that she had the best qualities for Girls State. The school is allowed to send two people for Boys State. Dmitri Melhorne and Jonathan Bradley were selected.

The students were nominated for Boys and Girls State by the faculty. Social Science teacher Mrs. O'Brian distributed nomination flyers to administrators, counselors, Junior American Experience, and English teachers.

Life in the Fast Food Lane

by Tina Goldberg

Okay. I'll admit it. I wear polyester clothing. I sweep floors and tables. Work in grease. Smell like stale animal fat on a slow burn.

I'll admit I work in a fast food restaurant. And I'll also admit I like it.

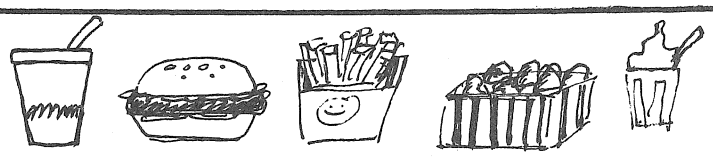
I have not always felt this way. For a long time, I, like many of my friends, looked down on fast food restaurants. I would eat there, spend small fortunes on milkshakes, hamburgers and fries--deliciously nondescript food that somehow managed to condense into a harmless mass in my stomach. I would not, however, work there. Like the food they doled out, fast food workers, I thought, were frozen. They were harmless--but dolts nonetheless. Dolts in a slow thaw.

My attitude started to change when, at the beginning of my senior year, I began to look for a job. My glorious job skills--near fluency in French, typing(at the speed of a woodpecker) and oodles of charm(in my opinion) simply did not match the qualifications for the jobs that interested me.

hurdled into a throng of hungry, impatient customers. I had to learn how to fry fries, operate the drive-thru and make milkshakes--fast.

Any adult with a job that requires the slightest amount of skill will scoff at the notion that fast food work is "work." But it is. If nothing else, fast food restaurants instill the work ethic. My first week I worked five nights after school, from 4 until 8,9, or sometimes 10 p.m. Add to that an average four hours per night of homework plus weekends at school speech tournaments. It doesn't take much math to see that I was living 25 hour days.

Fast food has gone high tech. At home, I shied away from the family computer. At work I couldn't avoid it. "Counting change" is, like, out of style. Now, with the flick of a finger, I can press "small" and "fries" and the neon green will flash "$.94" although the outdated drive-thru sign reads "$.89" The customer is always right, but heck, you know I can't give change--the computer is always right, right?



For weeks I discounted without a second thought the numerous fast food "Help Wanted" ads on my school's bulletin board. The ads did not apply to me. I have always held the view, perhaps hammered into my brain by my parents and teachers, that everything I do must have meaning. A fast food job could have no meaning. Flipping hamburgers on a grill and punching preprogrammed orders on an adding machine could hardly improve my culinary skills or mathematical abilities.

But after a month of frustrating, fruitless searching, I relented. I filled out an application. Why? I wanted the money.

I wanted the money for the prom and for college. And the fast food restaurant wanted me. I had joined the ranks of Ronald, Carl, Mr. King and thousands of teens who understand the value of a quick buck.

The process was simple enough. My job "interview" consisted of a quick tour and a run through of the rules and regulations. Who needs job training? Seconds after I had finished marking the last "exempt" on the W4 form, I was

My co-workers were not the dolts I had previously believed them to be. Some of them simply did not understand the value of a buck. They filled the milkshake cups to capacity when the franchise owner had clearly marked the cup at two-thirds. "It's not one-third empty, it's two-thirds full," I thought.

One day every two weeks, the frantic mopping, table wiping, and salad bar stocking would slow down. On payday, I received the ultimate reward for my efforts--$120. Make that $110--no, about $100 after deductions. I should consider myself lucky. Children used to work in coal mines, or worse. I could be working full time, living just above minimum wage.

Sometimes, after work, I would slip into my seat on the BART train with the other late night riders and pretend I was a real worker with a real job, traveling home at rush hour with the other real workers, my brow furrowed and my thoughts turned inward. My hungry family waiting, I would arrive home. Too exhausted to cook, I would take my family out to eat--at a fast food restaurant, of course.

Cows on Drugs

by Dmitri Melhorn

If someone was risking your health to make a profit, you'd be shocked that such a thing could happen. Yet major agricultural businesses routinely engage in a practice that risks the health of everyone in the United States-sub-theraputic doses of antibiotics.

In order to churn out a lot of livestock, factory farms give their animals small amounts of antibiotics to stimulate growth. The constant use of these drugs, however, has decreased their effectiveness and caused resistant bacteria to form. Thus when you eat a burger at Burger King or McDonalds, you could be getting a taste of the residues of these resistant bacteria. And if you ever get sick from these bacteria, no drugs will be able to help you.

Clearly, the miracle of antibiotics is being squandered for a few cents of profit on a pound of veal. Recent studies have proven that the use of these antibiotics on farms reduces their effectiveness in fighting human diseases, and that sub-theraputic doses of antibiotics can be linked to several deaths each year in the US.

Great Britain banned the use of antibiotics years ago, and many other countries have followed suit. Yet in spite of increasing evidence of the detrimental effects of antibiotics in animal feed, the United States continues to allow their use. It's time we followed the rest of the world and banned the sub-theraputic doses of anti-biotics in animal feed, before any more US citizens suffer from their use.

El Caballero is an official student publication of El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury, El Cerrito, California 94530. The opinions expressed in these editorials are not necessarily those of the El Caballero or the ECHS administration. All letters to the editor must be written and signed; the writer's name will be withheld by request. For advertising rates, write to El Cerrito High School, c/o Journalism Department.

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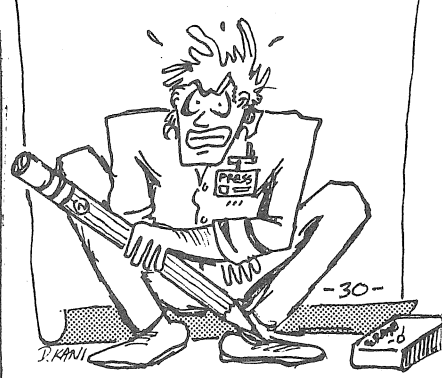

Three Cheers for Blackman

by Andrew Kaplan

It's sad that people seldom say anything good about one of the best features of El Cerrito High. Let's face it- there are plenty of things to complain about as it is. We thus have all the more reason to rejoice in the good things. But we don't, and it's time somebody did. I want to publicly express my appreciation for Anna Blackman, our principal.

Students complain endlessly about the administration at ECHS. They don't realize how lucky we are to have Mrs. Blackman in charge. Take this newspaper, for example. I have never heard of one instance where she has vetoed an article. She has that power, you know. Every principal does, and other principals are only too happy to use it, even those who consider themselves to be fairly liberal. Mrs. Blackman is willing to allow students to express themselves within the bounds of good taste, and for that we should be thankful.

Look at the recent "Day in the Pit #2" put on by Duckies and Bunnies. How many principals would be willing to let a controversial group play in the center of the school during lunch? Most would probably take the safe route and forbid it. That keeps them protected from parental complaints, but doesn't do much for the morale of the students. Mrs. Blackman is different- she thinks of the students first.

There are those who say she's a mean principal because she won't let anyone get away with breaking the rules. A neglectful principal isn't necessarily a good principal. A neglectful principal isn't even necessarily a good person. Mrs. Blackman is both a good principal and a good person. She enforces the rules, but she doesn't do it harshly or unfairly. And she is willing to fight her superiors on issue that concern us, the students. Mrs. Blackman has a reputation as a hellraiser, a troublemaker. That may make some people feel uncomfortable, but it makes me feel just fine. I'd rather have a principal who was willing to stand up and fight for my rights than a one who is willing to sit back and let others walk all over us and her.

Just remember all this the next time you think of Mrs. Blackman. Let her know you think she's doing a good job. Too often we let people go by without letting them know how much we appreciate them. High school is a big part of all of our lives, and Mrs. Blackman is a big part of this high school. Let her know that we care.

Unscrupulous Testing

by Jef Bekes

Vacations are something almost all students look forward to. They're a time to relax, and above all, a time to be free from school work. We have been blessed with not only a Spring Break but also a Ski Week. We get days off for Martin Luther King's birthday, L.I.F.E. conferences, and Memorial day. To paraphrase a certain principle of physics, for every good action there must also be an equal and opposite bad reaction, in this case, the day or days before vacation.

During that time, I notice that most of my teachers feel it neccessary to give tests on the day before vacation. From their point of view it's not that bad, but they don't realize that all my other teachers are doing the same thing. It's quite similar to the "one hour of homework a night" paradox. Teachers expect you to be content with only one hour of homework a night for that subject, but again, they fail to realize that you have six classes, totaling a titanic six hours of supposed homework each night. On the same token, by scheduling four or five tests on the day before vacation, teachers are making it a trial for students to survive. Some tests, such as the bailey, are impossible to study for in advance, and when it comes time to plop down for umpteen hours of studying on Thursday night, or Friday morning as the case may be, we are faced with a most unpleasant situation.

According to one of my teachers, tests are given prior to vacations so that they will have plenty of time to correct them. From their point of view it is a lgical reason, but in truth, they are only thinking for themselves. How would they feel if all tests were scheduled at the students' convenience? What if tests were scheduled after vacations so we had plenty of time to study? Having tests on the day before every single vacation is like having finals five times a year. I do, however, have one teacher who carefully plans his tests out for the whole year, or so I suspect, based only on when we finish the chapter, not when we have a vacation coming up.

If the teachers would only take the time to aknowledge the students' point of view, it would create more harmonious student-teacher relations. We are in school for our benefit, not to create jobs for teachers. My point is not that teachers should go all out to make life pleasant for the students, but that they should show a little more courtesy to the students when it comes time to schedule tests.

Girls' Hoop Gets Soup

by Ray Yokoi

I'm mad. The ladies' basketball team did not make it into the Norcal Tournament. After a devastating loss in the Northcoast Semifinals the lady hoopsters were hoping for an at large berth to the Norcal Tournament.

The girls, 29 and 2 , have the best record in the Bay Area and the second best in the state. Also, the girls are un-defeated at home for the past three years besides having four starters nominated to all league. From what I have just written it is obvious that our girls deserved a Norcal berth over Oakland Tech, 17 and 10 ,and even over Logan , 22 and 8.Although we lost to them in the playoffs we beat them twice before in the regular season.

North Coast Section Commission, Mr.Guidini gave no substancial reasons to why E.C.H.S. was denied. According to him the girls did not make it because they failed to reach the finals and they lost to Logan by 15 points. Yet they made it to the seni-finals and the night before they beat Moreau by 19 points. Also,Oakland Tech didn't even qualify for North Coast 3A.

The even larger issue at stake is the fact that this could happpen to other deserving teams.Obviously the criteria which the North Coast Commissioner uses to choose the at large berths nedds to be changed to allow the best and deserving teams.Basically it simply needs fairness-something it lacks currently.

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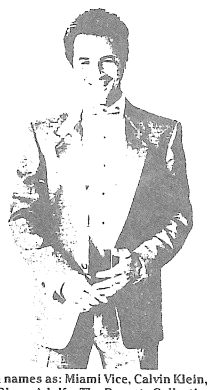

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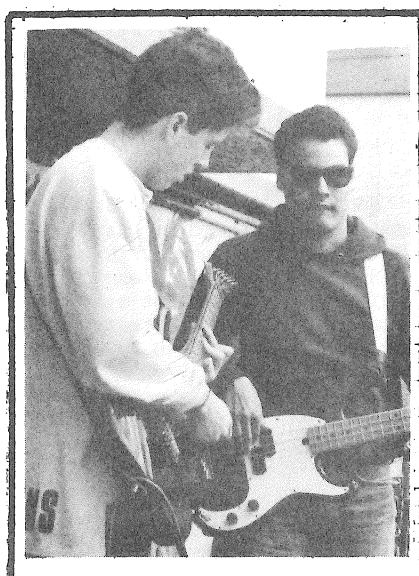
Side Effect Plays Pit

by Darren Kani

It was Thursday, March 20. Clouds appeared on the horizon and a cold wind blew through the pit. For an instant, the sun appeared, warming the air, then it disappeared behind more clouds. People gathered in the pit waiting anxiously for a Side Effect, and a side effect is what they got in the Day In The Pit #1.

After the Battle of the Bands, it didn't seem likely that there would be anymore performances in the pit, but Mrs. Calhoun surprised the students, and especially Side Effect by allowing the performance.



Hoagland and Zahnley are in the mix!

The band Side Effect played at lunch for a modest-sized crowd. The all-junior band consisted of Paul Zahnley on guitar, Brian Hoagland on bass, Darryl Laferte on drums and Kelly Hale on vocals. They played a set of nine songs for the enthusiastic crowd. They started with "Message in a Bottle" (Police) and then played "Walking on the Moon" (Police), "In the Air" (Fishbone), "You Really Got Me" (Kinks), "Next to You" (Police), "Roxanne" (Police), "Driven to Tears" (Police), "Louie Louie" (Kingsmen), and "Shock", their own composition.

The students seemed to enjoy the performance and after the concert, many were inspired to try their own groups out. One student commented on the idea of lunchtime concerts, "I think it's a much more interesting way to spend the lunch period than 'just bumming around the old hangout."

When asked what they thought about Side Effect, most students had a positive response. "They were cool, but they should learn some other songs than Police songs." said one. Another added, "I liked the song 'Shock' but I have to agree that if they plan to play to crowds, they should play songs that most people can recognize."

Darryl Laferte of Side Effect commented on the performance, "It went off fairly smoothly and I hope that the concert promoted us enough to get some more gigs."

Will the "Day In The Pit" become a regular event at lunch? Will ECHS rock with those hip tunes every week? It's all up to the bands of ECHS.

Graduation Announcements

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EC Musicians Honored

by Jessica Baker

This year on March 14 El Cerrito students went to the C.M.E.A. Solo and Ensemble Festival and received a variety of honors.

The Solo and Ensemble Festival is a special event held each year, sponsored by the California Music Association (C.M.E.A.).Schools from a large part from a Northern California have students entered. Somewhere between 50 and 70 schools were represented.

According to Paul Yonemura, El Cerrito's band and orchestra teacher, the purpose of the music festival is not for competiotion. It is geared to be a learning experience with constructive criticism. The point is to learn. The judges are all one

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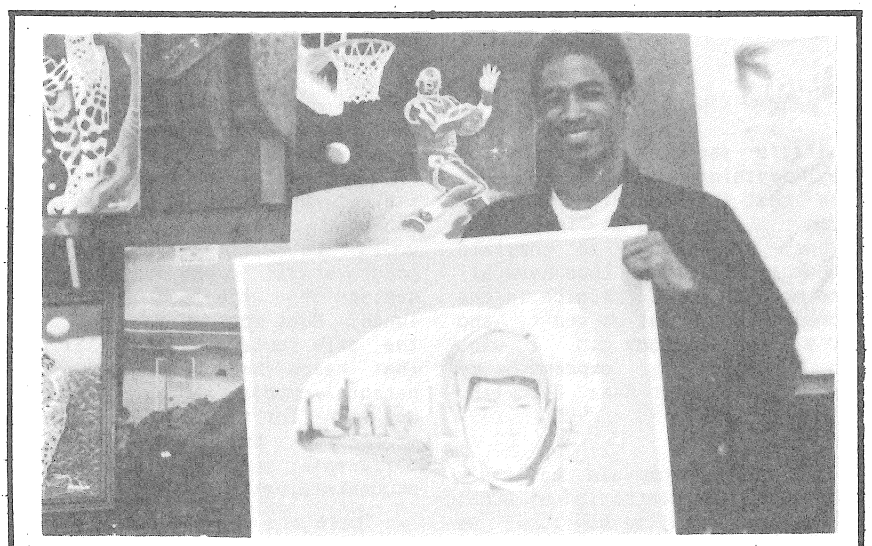

Anthony Harrison with one of his latest works.

Anthony & Anthony Star in Art

by Leslie Soo

The two Anthony's, Anthony Craddock and Anthony Harrison have more than just their first names in common. They are both seniors who love art-- and their work needs to recognized at ECHS. They have had their art work featured in the showcase in the main hall, and have been picked to show their paintings at the Ricmond Art Center's district's show from April 9-28.

Craddock has had no other formal training than taking art classes since 7th grade. He says that " School is the only place where I can practice. " Mr. Fink, the art teacher, has influenced Craddock to switch from drawing to painting. Tony's favorite subjects are realistic landscapes and people. He likes the expressionistic style because " it is freer and looser, you don't have to concentrate on the details as much." Tony uses photographs and models to help create his art work.

This year Craddock's showcase was a single, huge painting of a Vietnamese soldier, and he hopes that at the end of the year he will able to showcase a collection of paintings that have been collected over the years. According to Tony art appeals to him because, " Art is like life; You have to know when to get up close and concern yourself with the details and when to step back and look at the whole picture."

Anthony Harrison became interested in art because of his father. "When my father used to work at home, I wanted to try; it seemed easy to draw what you saw." He believes that even the cartoons inspired him to try drawing. And like Craddock, he was also influenced by Fink to try painting instead of pencil drawings.

Harrison prefers to paint animals, and has only painted a person once. He experiments with his paintings, concocting a mixture of acrylic, poster paint or watercolor to acheive the desired effect. Harrison might try to pursue art as a career, but he knows that art is very competitive. But for now, art as a fun hobby is satisfying enough for him. " I like art because I like to make people happy. If they see some of my work and it pleases them, that's good enough for me."

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Schools demand services

by Ellisa Sagle

The idea of having a health clinic on a high school campus has spurred interest among students, teachers, school administration, and parents. In fact all of the five board members of the Richmond Unified School District unanimously agreed that health clinics should definitely be installed into high schools. They feel that clinics are in great need; that they will help to give students an accessible, free place to turn for health services; and that the clinics will help to make the school environment a comfortable place.

So why is it that the Richmond Unified School District is not being more aggressive with this subject? The board members and other school administrators are wary of the negative response they might receive from the community and are also worried that the District might have to cough up some more money which they cannot afford to do. However, the board members have indicated that they will definitely look further into the idea of providing physical and mental health services to teenagers in need.

I would rather see healthy students than ignorant students

In September of 1986, San Jose High School finally accepted the idea of having a health clinic on their campus. A year before, the private foundation of Packard and Howard had urged San Jose to start a clinic by being willing to pay for a large amount of money needed.This offer was extremely succcessful for getting the support of the school administration.

Then Georgina Coray, a graduate of Stanford University and present administrative coordinator of San Jose High School's health clinic, wrote up a survey involving students and parents to see what the views of the community would be. The overwhelmingly positive results initiated several meetings between community members and school officials to discuss the details of starting a health clinic.

V.D.tests, urine tests), services to prevent unplanned pregnancies(prescribing but not dispensing of prescription and non-prescription methods of birth control), immunizations, dental hygiene, drug, alcohol, nutrition, crises, and emotional counseling, and education directed to preventing unplanned pregnancy, boosting self-esteem, opening communication between parents and children, instructing on how to stop smoking, and instructing on how to maintain good health.(nutrition and exercise).

Soon after, a community advisory board consisting of 2 students, 6 parents, 3 teachers, and 4 other community members, was selected to decide what the final look of the clinic would be.

San Jose High School's health clinic now gives such services as: Care for minor illness or injury, sports and general physical examinations, diagnostic tests(blood pressure, blood sugar, throat and wound cultures,

The Community Advisory Board for San Jose High School made the decision to require parent permission forms for all students who seek the services of the new clinic. Still, the parents have the option to choose which services should be rendered for their child. Even though this permission form is required for student services, students can still be "looked at," according to Dorothy Castillo, one of the physician's assistants at the clinic.

The support for the high school based health clinic in San Jose has been surprisingly positive from such groups as the church and parents of the community. Indman and Castillo contend that once people know the facts, people are much more open to new ideas.

Now several high schools in California are in the process of creating a health clinic on their campuses. Pittsburg High School is one of these schools. The superintendent of the district is now holding several meetings to inform parents, students, and school faculty of the concept of high school based health clinics. According to the superintendent, Pittsburg is almost ready to move on to the next step of planning the specifics of the clinic.

President of El Cerrito High's PTSA and parent, Wendy Bergman, said,"I am definitely in favor of the concept of high school based health clinics." And Eddis Harrison, school board member, stated "I would rather see healthy students than ignorant students."

Indman and Castillo of the San Jose High Health Clinic.

EC Opens House

by Charan Johl

As music flowed in and out of the rooms, teachers, parents, and students all converged on campus one cool night last month for the annual "Open House. Students hearts beat nervously as they walked along with apprehensive parents. Earlier that day many teachers had informed us that it was against policy for grades to be discussed. But we'd already seen through their lure and knew that it was just a baited trap to draw us into doom. We were here anyway though.

Adults are just too smart. Even though we'd ripped the notes we got in second period into microscopic pieces, even though we were sure to clear our minds of that dread thought whenever parents were around just in case they actually could read our minds, they somehow still found out. It must be some instinctual sense that notifies them every year and creates that primal urge to do us kids in.

But after the initial threat of having parents with mouths full of questions in the same room with teachers subsided, Open House turned out to be what my pesky brother termed as "pretty cool".

One thing a lot of people seemed to be passing by was the Book Sale in the library. All varieties of books from children's selections to more advanced theoretical postulations lay on the tables waiting to be picked up. And after talking with the PTSA mothers in charge we also found out that no really big profit has ever been made from the sale which was set up just to get students interested in books.

Another exhibit which a lot of parents and students neglected was the annual Art Show put on buy the E.C. art department to highlight the year to come.

Works ranging from intricate modern art to simple wilderness scenes hung on all the walls of the art room. Some students even had their own one man shows and displayed four or five of their works.

One of the parents that happened to stroll in said to Mr. Fink, the art teacher,"I really loved it. I was just telling my husband that these kids are very talented." Other parents were also surprised at the students' talent.

Right across from the Art Show, the cafeteria held a series of displays including the sensually stimulating Bake Sale. Swarms of parents were gathered

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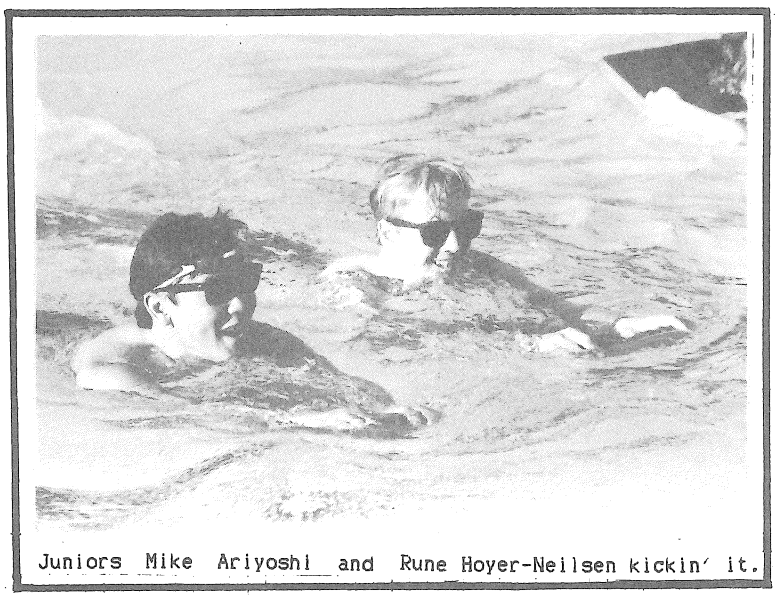


Juniors Mike Ariyoshi and Rune Hoyer-Neilsen kickin' it.

Sluggers Squander Lead

by Amy Page

Top of the seventh, El Cerrito up 7-5. Sophomore pitcher Nate Brown walks the first Hornet then picks him off first base. One out. Two more walks and Kevin Harris strolls to the mound to relieve Brown.

Two more consecutive walks, a runner trots in. Score: Gauchos 7-6. Senior ace Brad Brown gets the call from first base to wrap up the victory with one out and bases loaded. Two balls and two strikes. Grand slam by Tony Frey puts Alameda ahead 10-7, enough to win the game.

But that wasn't the end. In the seventh inning, Alameda sent 16 batters to the plate, facing six Gaucho hurlers (including catcher Tyrone McClain and third baseman Danny Smith). Nine walks, a hit baseman, an error, two singles, a double and the grand slam gave the Hornets eleven runs to earn a 16-7 comeback victory over El Cerrito.

The Gauchos went down - one, two, three - in the bottom of the inning to finish the game in the growing darkness.

The loss dropped the Gauchos to a 1-2 GBAL record, 6-2 overall. El Cerrito is tied with Kennedy for fourth in the league standings, as the two rivals square off today at 3:30 at Kennedy.

Last Tuesday, the Gauchos had been ranked #1 in the East Bay but after a 5-0 league opening loss to Pinole Valley, the EC sluggers moved down to a fifth place ranking in this week's poll. Ygnacio Valley replaced EC as the #1 team and Pinole grabbed second.

Last Friday, the Gauchos beat Berkeley, 4-1, behind the strong pitching of Brad Brown and Junior Lumus Russell who combined for a five-hitter.

Russell started Tuesday's game against Alameda but only lasted 1 1/3 innings as he was ripped for five runs, off of three walks and six hits. Russell struck out two.

Nate Brown was called in for relief duty and held Alameda scoreless until the seventh, giving the Gaucho bats the chance to come alive.

In the second, junior catcher Steve Hunt singled, McClain reached first on an error and junior Sean Prior knocked them in with a triple. Prior scored on an error to make the score 5-3.

In the third, Brad Brown smashed a home run over left field, bring in Smith who had singled and tying the game at 5-5. The Gauchos went ahead, 6-5, as Prior sacrificed in Hunt, who had reached first on a slicing single and moved to third on an error.

In the bottom of the sixth, the Gauchos scored what then looked like an insurance run, as sophomore Sam Bernstein scored McClain on a ground-out to third.

In the victory over Berkeley, the Gauchos broke out to a 2-0 lead in the first as McClain ripped a triple, scoring Brad Brown and Hunt who had been walked to the bases.

In the fourth, Smith cleared the bases with a long triple to center field, sending Eric Robinson and Corey Wafer home.

In the loss to Pinole, the Spartans scored all their five runs in the third off pitcher Brad Brown.

Pinole ace Corey Thomas thwarted EC's efforts with ten strikes and masterful pitching out of scoring threats.

Swimmers Stroke Into GBAL

by Jeffrey Pryde

The EC women's swim team demolished De Anza 86-37 but swam to a 114-41 loss against Alameda while the boy's swim suffered a tough loss to De Anza 78-62 but was demolished by GBAL powerhouse Alameda 113-40.

Senior Carina Pastor and Sophomore Chrissy Schultz lead the Gauchos against De Anza. Pastor won the 200 Freestyle in 2:29.09 and the 100 Breaststroke in 1:19.50. Schultz won the Backstroke in 1:06.60 and the 200 Individual Medley 2:20.00 .

The trio of Senior Seymour Liao , Junior Ken Hong and Sophomore Joel Salmeron paced the Gauchos against the Dons. Hong won the 100 Butterfly in 57.5 and the 500 Free in 5:14.26. Liao won The 50 Free in 26.14 and placed second in the 100 Free with 59.29. Salmeron won 200 the Free in 2:03.81 and placed second in the 100 Breast with 1:10.45.

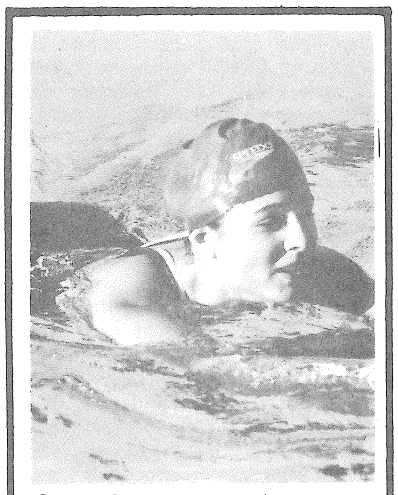
other EC performances include Junior Mike Ariyoshi second place finish in the 500 Free with 6:56.89 and Junior James Holland third place in the 100 Back with 1:25.15.

Sophomore Chrissy Schultz and Junior Ken Hong paced the Gauchos z against a tough Alameda team . Schultz won the 200 I.M. with 2:19.43 and the 500 Free with 5:28.75 for the Lady Gauchos and Hong won the 200 Free with 1:56.41 and 100 Fly with 58.87 for the boys.

Other ECHS girl's permormances include Senior Carina Pastor placing third in the 200 Free <2:18.98> and the 100 Breast <1:19.42> . Sophomore Stephanie Lau placed fourth in the 50 Free <31.11> and in the 100 Free <1:15.90>

Other ECHS boys' Performances included Sophomore Joel Salmeron placing third in the 200 I.M <2:22.05> and in the 100 Breast <1:11.82> and Senior Seymour Liao placing fourth in the 200 Free <2:15.10> and in the 100 Free <58.84>.

The Gauchos will entertain Pinole Valley Today at the El Cerrito Community Center at 3:30.



Becky Bogy giving her all.

Netters End Preseason, Prepare For League

by Craig Wong

After dropping a close 4-3 decision to Piedmont high, the El Cerrito Men's Tennis team has won four matches in a row. They have dominated their opponents, beating Oakland, De Anza, St. Mary's, and salesian high schools. With their 4-1 preseason record, they are now prepared for league play, which began yesterday against Alameda.

On Thursday, March 26, The Gauchos traveled to Nichol Park to defeat the Salesian Chieftains, 7-2. The Gauchos were shorthanded, as three of the top five singles players were absent. But the depth of the team came through, as Chris Darling, Matthew Cone, and Po Ta Chang came out victorious. Sophomores Sean Bridge and Tom Frank, however, did not fare as well, losing in the number three and four slots, respectively.

The Gauchos dominated doubles action, as the teams of Jason Gammill and Alfred Miller, Jordan Harris and Sameer Pandya, Myron Lo and Lenny Hellman, and Dean Seiji and Peter Tseng romped to easy victories.

In earlier action, the Gauchos defeated St. Mary's 5-0, Oakland 5-2, and De Anza 9-0. In their only loss, a tough 4-3 defeat to Piedmont, Darling, Don Danmeier, and Chad Bosch all came out winners.

Against De Anza, Myron Mason, Danmeier, Cone, Bosch, Ed Aw, and Bridge were all singles winners. EC double winners were Tan Vo and Craig Wong, Miller and Pandya, and Harris and Gammill.

In the match against Oakland, Darling, Mason, Cone, and Bosch won singles matches, and Vo and Wong won in doubles action.

The Gauchos dominated play against St. Mary's, winning all five singles matches, before doubles play was rained out. Winnning for EC were Darling, Mason, Danmeier, Cone, and Bosch.

The netters will travel to Pinole next Tuesday, and will be at home Wednesday and Thursday to host De La Salle and Berkeley.

SCHEDULES

Baseball

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
April 3	Kennedy	Away
April 7	Pinole Valley	Away
April 10	De La Salle	Home
April 13	Easter Baseball Classic	Away
April 21	Kennedy	Home
April 24	Berkeley	Home
April 28	Alameda	Away
May 1	De La Salle	Away
May 5	Pinole Valley	Home
May 8	Berkeley	Home
May 12	Alameda	Home
May 15	Kennedy	Away

Men's Tennis

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
4/2	Alameda	Away
4/7	Pinole Valley	Away
4/8	De La Salle	Home
4/8	Berkeley	Home
4/28	Kennedy	Home
4/30	Pinole Valley	Home
5/5	Berkeley	Away
5/7	De La Salle	Away
5/12	Alameda	Home
5/14	Kennedy	Away
5/19-5/21	GBAL Finals	
5/29-5/30	NCS tournament	

Swimming

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
4/3	Pinole	Home
4/7	Encinal	Home
4/28	Berkeley	Home
5/16	League Finals	CCC
5/28-5/30	North Coast	

Track

Date	Opponent	Place
4/9	Pinole	Home
4/11	Oakland Invit. Relays	Laney
4/18	Bruce Jenner Invit.	San Jose
4/23	Alameda	College of Alameda
4/25	West Valley Relays	San Jose
4/30	Kennedy	Home
5/2	Logan Invit.	Logan
5/7	Berkeley	Home
5/15	GBAL Championship Trials	College of Alameda
5/16	GBAL Finals	College of Alameda
5/23	NCS Trials	TBA
5/24	NCS Finals	TBA
5/29	Meet of Champion Trials	UCB
5/30	Meet of Champion Finals	UCB
6/5	State Meet Trials	Sacramento
6/6	State Meet Finals	Sacramento

Relays Shine at Stanford

by Veli Lehman

The El Cerrito Track team turned in some outstanding performances at the Stanford Invitational on Saturday March 28. 150 high schools and 30 Universities gathered at the Stanford stadium to compete in this meet, the largest in Northern California. Two El Cerrito women's teams and one men's team had finishes in the top three.

El Cerrito showed its dominance in the distance events by winning the girls distance medley relay for the second year in a row. Seniors Veli Lehman and Debra Binnall and juniors Marisa Gardella and Semyrra Nelson demolished the competition to win with a scorching time or 12:49.7. This winning time was a 5 second improvement over last year. Acalanes was close behind the Gauchos in second place and Leland high was third.

The girls 440 relay team of Roshawnda Sampson, Nelson, Michelle Bull, and Sonja Combs finished in third place. Biship O'dowd was the winner with a time of 50.67, the Gauchos clocked 51.1.

The closest race for El Cerrito was the boys sprint medley relay. Alex Da Silva led off the relay with a swift half mile time of 1:58. Andre Love and Eddie Holland kept the Gauchos to the front of the race with their 220 legs and Donald Williams' excellent anchor leg of 50.4 (400 meters) brought the Gauchos within one second of victory. Amador Valley won the event and the Gauchos settled for third place.

El Cerrito's next home meet is April 9th against Berkeley. On April 11th the Gauchos will compete at the Oakland Athletic League relays.

Senior Debbie Binnall anchors winning Distance Medley Relay.

Awards

Linda Schultz and Lisa Nakamura were honored with the Lesher Sports award. Nakamura, known for her defense was named all-league four years in row. Schultz, a 5-9 senior, scored 1.363 points and grabbed 987 rebounds in her four year career. This year she averaged 16 points and 11 rebounds per outing.

Softball

El Cerrito girl's softball team bolted to a 24-4 win over Kennedy in a non-league contest. Janet Schultz hit two triples and pitched no walks to lead the Gauchos.

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ASU Returns

by Susan Chiang

The ASU (Asian Student Union) was a popular club for many years but as of last year, their activities have been few and far between.

Recently, senior Ed Aw decided to activate the ASU for the remaining of the school year. Ed, along with another senior, Ross Okamura called a meeting with last year's members on March 18 to discuss th future plans for tne ASU. The El Cerrito ASU plans to have a dance with the Kennedy High ASU on May 1 and hopes that all members will attend and bring their friends.

For the past 2 years, the club has been largely inactive. The ASU wasn't planned to start again until Ed talked with Ross about planning future activities. One of Ed's goals is to "start a stable leadership now for next year's ASU members."

Science Fair CONTINUED

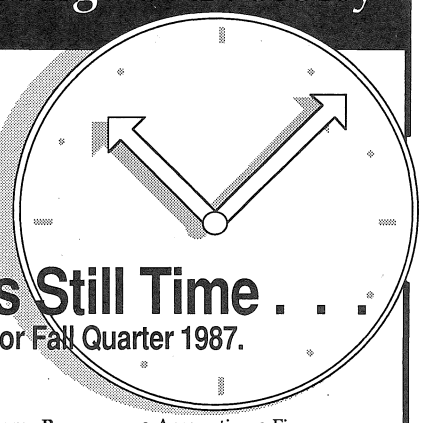
Taniguchi. First place went to Freshman Marc Dea and Sophmore Nance Somers.

For 3rd place 9th grade Biological Sciences, Mike Bergman won and Marc Dea and Crystal Nie won 9th grade Physical Science. Margie Proctor came in 2nd place Behavorial Sciences and Todd Taniguchi won 2nd place physical science.

The San Francisco Fair was one of the largest in many years. Tobin comments, "Our students did very well especially considering that there was 337 other High School projects there." Thomas Tandoc won 4th place in 9th grade Physical Science. Derric McGlothen went away with 10th grade Physical Science.

1st place for 10th grade Physical Science and Biological Science went to Nancy Somers and Michelle Brand, respectively. Celia Chung won 11th grade Behavorial Science and Kevin Gong went away with 1st place in 11th grade Math.

Armstrong University
Berkeley



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Musicians CONTINUED

type of music educator or another. The festival is not just for high school students. Elementary, as well as junior high kids strive to gain honors.

The ratings, from best to worst are Command Performance, Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor. Command Performances come few and far between. From this years particular festival only 15 Command Performances were given out after two days of excruciating playing. Says Yonemoura "Command Performances are given only when the performance is so outstanding that it's comparable to college level".

Awards given to El Cerrito muscians are: Command Performance for a clarinet duet- David Barraza and Dina Murakawa. Superior for a trombone duet- Jamie Vlahos and Dan Fox. Also for a woodwind quintet- Pheobe Shroder, Cathy Keefe, Dina Murakawa, Rand Clark and Lori Herod.

Club Chess' First Big Win

by Andrew M. Kaplan

On March 14 and 15, El Cerrito High School took third place in the 12th annual Northern California Scholastic Chess Championship. The team was comprised of Erik Finkelstein, Antoine Harrison, Gonzalo Moreno, Kevin Gong, and Lieh Ching. First place was taken by Live Oak High School and Lowell High School.

In terms of individual scoring, Kevin Gong led the team with 4 wins out of 5 games played. Gonzalo Moreno won 3 and drew one. Erik Finkelstein won two outright, drew one, and won one by forfeit. Antoine Harrison lost his first two games, but came back to win his next two. Unfortunately, his score of two was too low to allow him into the finals. Lieh Ching got off to a bad start, but managed to emerge from his fourth game with one win.

The real action took place in Gong and Moreno's final rounds. These turned out to be the last games of the tournament. Had EC won both games, we could have taken second place, knocking Lowell out of the race. However, Gonzalo got into serious time trouble, soon having less than a minute to play.

His opponent got into a drawn position, but started moving back and forth, soon making a three-fold repetition of position, a draw. Gonzalo stated as much. However, his opponent said that since neither side was recording the moves, he could not declare a draw. Gonzalo claimed that if it was true it was a "travesty of justice" and started complaining in Spanish. Soon the head tournament director was called. He explained that if a director witnessed a clear repetition, it was a draw. There were witnesses, including a director, and the position had actually been repeated about six times. The Lowell High opponent then proceeded to cry and shout at him.

Meanwhile, the crowd turned its attention to the other game. Kevin was a pawn ahead, but his opponent still could have gotten a draw. However, he blundered, giving his opponent an advantage, and never got it back. With Kevin threatening mate with his Queened pawn, his opponent resigned. Kevin had 30 seconds left on his clock.

Open House CONTINUED

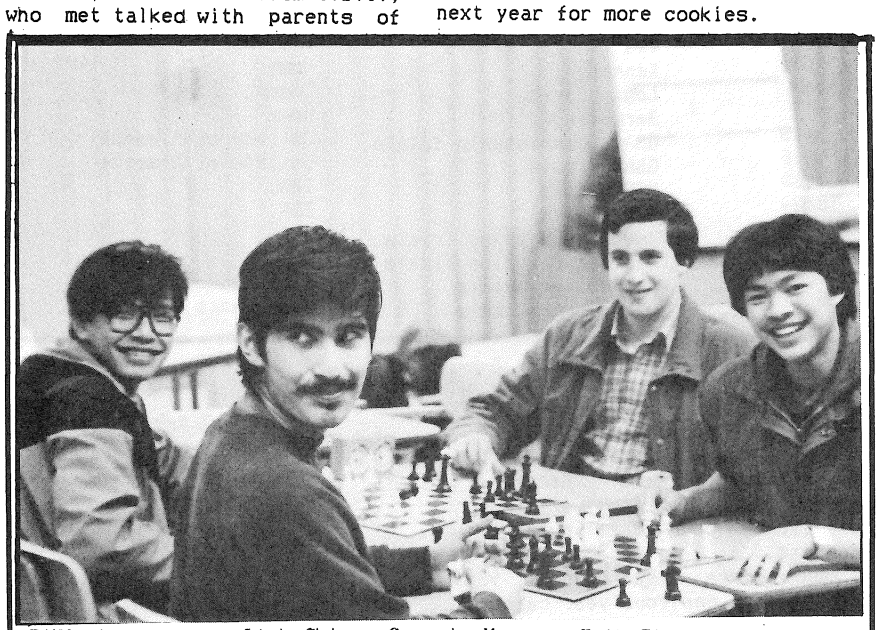
around tables full of cakes, cookies, donuts, and other sweet mouth-melters. This almost seemed to be where kids were leading their parents. As if parents with mouths full were parents who would talk to teachers less.

Around the Bake Sale other displays were set up to grab parents as they walked out with content stomachs. Mr. Miller was there with his tutoring recruiters trying to grab more parents and enlist them into the tutoring program. Last year, one of the recruiters said, Open House was a very effective way to get more parents to help students out.

Mrs. Burkhart manned another station and encouraged parents to send letters to the State Government expressing their desire to increase school funding. Next to her was Olivia Trevino, a counselor from C.D.C., who met talked with parents of students involved in the program. The Blood Drive Station run by members of E.C.'s leadership class tried to have parents donate their blood but got very few to cooperate.

As 8PM approached, parents and kids started to mingle less, weave in and out of clumps and finally leave. One student, Garth Ahern, commented that, "As a student I feel its very shameful to see the turnout here tonight. It seems that parents today have no interest in their children's futures. Children are an investment. To come to school is to see the dividends of this investment. As curators of this investment, they should be on a contrary very intelligent about the actions and courses their children are partaking in life and school.

This year's Open House had come to an end. Those who were late would just have to wait for next year for more cookies.



ECHS chess team: Lieh Ching, Gonzalo Moreno, Erik Finkelstein and Kevin Gong practice their moves between tournaments.